

LUCERNE VALLEY & JOHNSON VALLEY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

LV Community Center, 33187 Hwy 247 East, Lucerne Valley

Thursday, September 21, 2017 @ 5pm

Roger Peterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. Flag Salute

ROLL CALL:

Present: Roger Peterson (Chair), Jean Magee (Member), Betty Munson (Member), Lorane Abercrombie (Member), Joanna Wright (Member), Jean Fuqua (Member)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Betty Munson made motion to approve; Joanna Wright, second. Agenda approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Jean Magee made motion to approve; Lorane Abercrombie, second. Minutes approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Donna Soria, VP Chamber of Commerce, asked about Special District Fees for use of the park for Frontier Days, September 30. Reese Troublefield to investigate charge to cover a weekend staff salary added to the reservation fee of 60.00

GUEST SPEAKER: Steve Mills, author of the NextEra Energy Scoping Letter.

Overview of current renewable energy issues in Lucerne Valley:

- At August 8 hearing on the Renewable Energy and Conservation Element (RECE) for the County General Plan, the Board of Supervisors adopted all except RE Policy 4.10 to send back to Planning Commission. 4.10 offered most protection for integrity of communities and scenic values.
- Poor definitions included “degraded” land, particularly the recovery status of former agricultural lands.
- We should all watch for Planning Commission Agendas, comment on 4.10
- Inyo County confines utility-scale RE to development areas established by the County.
- California RE goal 50% by 2030, already met, raised to 60%. Now want 100% by 2045, most of it aimed at the California desert. That bill was passed by the state senate, but is stalled in the Assembly
- Countywide plans focus on smaller geographic areas, create action plans for locals to perform.

Current Lucerne Valley Community Plan provides better protection against big development than the draft community plan.

-Current projects planned in Lucerne Valley:

- 3mw on Camp Rock Road deemed abandoned, could come back
- 60mw Ord Mountain 484 acre on highly erosive soils. recovered AG w/climax saltbush, surrounded by private properties, 54 people faced with unlivable conditions, NextEra project
- 200mw Aurora Sorrel further north up S.R.247, on State Lands, no application to state yet
- SC Edison Calcite Substation symbiotic with proposed projects: project needs substation, substation needs projects. Will have its own impacts, cumulative effects, possible return of Coolwater-Lugo transmission corridor.
- 990 MW A&B, 990 acres on Lucerne Dry Lake bed next to S.R.247, 8 minute energy project, now called Sienna

Other projects reported in queue.

The more degraded this area becomes, the easier it becomes to industrialize it further.

Other grand plans include DRECP federal “landscape level” planning, to streamline RE development and negate CEQA rights; RETI 2.0 State landscape level plan; Victorville-Barstow TAFE transmission focus area; IEPR Integrated Energy Planning Report; California Energy Commission microgrid proceeding. No plans known to date on BLM lands.

Discussion and questions from audience included problems caused by existing solar fields, flash and heat at 10,000 feet observed by pilots, Granite Mountain and North Slope wind projects that had been planned on BLM lands, impact on property values; explosion and electrical fires at Lone Valley Solar on Camp Rock requiring specialized firefighting equipment not available locally, existing Solar Ordinance standards and Caltrans requirements for the protection of eligible Scenic Highway 247 should cause the RE applications in the Lucerne Valley area to be denied.

SPECIAL REPORT: Roger Peterson, MAC Chair: 8minutenergy's questionnaire errors.

Several truth-deficient answers on Land Use Application Questionnaire including:

Will project change scenic vistas from existing residential area, public lands or roads? NO

Will there be a change in dust, ash, smoke, fumes in vicinity? NO

Will there be any substantial change in existing noise or vibration levels in vicinity? NO

Will there be a substantial change in demand for public services (police, fire, water, sewage, etc.)? NO (see next question)

Will there be the use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials...or explosives? NO
(but large battery storage containers are planned, electrical fires occur)

Will there be a change in lake, stream, or ground water quality or quantity..? NO (they will have a large well on site, need more than allowed water in an adjudicated area.)

Is there a relationship to a larger project or series of projects? NO (see the many projects discussed by Steve Mills above)

ALL of the above questions should have been answered YES

8minutenergy LLC described the site as free of identified cultural, historical or scenic aspects, but artifacts from prehistoric lakeside encampments have been found, though they did no survey. Roger has also told them the lakebed is unstable ground that heaves and settles. The rocketeers and the fireworks company use the area, contribute to LV economy.

REPORTS:

a) 3rd District Field Representative Molly Wiltshire

Introduced Mark Lundquist, Morongo Basin Field Rep for James Ramos who now will also be Field Rep for Lucerne Valley-Johnson Valley. Sandy Baca will be Rep for Barstow region. Lundquist is also Chair of the Morongo Valley MAC, suggested a combined MAC meeting on shared issues.

Sandra Maravilla is Deputy Chief of Staff.

b) CSA 29 Report- Reese Troublefield, Manager

Congratulated staff on the beauty and quality of Lucerne Valley parks

Thanked Sheriffs, CHP and fire departments for support of July celebration

Money unused from MWA grant for Russell Park to be used for benches and picnic shelters.

Movies in the Park series successful.

Undergrounding utilities being discussed again.

Oct 2 presentation from Alliance Energy for solar system for library, senior center and community Center.

Also for Joshua Tree and Hesperia.

New Big Bear Zoo Grand Opening to be Labor Day 2018.

Scott and Sharon Fritz both retiring from CSA 29. Reese will introduce Sharons' replacement Frank Haggard next month. A trainee for transmitter position is open.

c) Cal Fire Representative

Thanked us for keeping defensible spaces around homes.

Fire season is still not over.

High wind and low humidity forecasts keep burn suspension in effect.

d) San Bernardino County Fire- Captain Mike Taylor now back at Station 8.

They received a brand new fire engine in July, but retained the old engine for backup.

Issued new and better breathing packs

Did the hose testing last month.

Station received over 100 calls in August, mostly medical, traffic accidents, investigations.

One unoccupied mobile home fire under investigation.

Extinguished a 14-acre alfalfa fire with help from other resources.

Burn permits being issued, but so far no burn days allowed. Residents in State Responsibility Areas need permit from both CalFire and County Fire.

Get subscription for ambulance service at the station.

e) San Bernardino County Sheriff- Representative-unable to attend

f) State Assembly 33rd District- Representative- unable to attend

g) Land Use Committee-Roger Peterson- None

h) Cemetery Committee-Jean Fuqua- None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

INFORMATION/NON-ACTION ITEMS: None

ACTION ITEMS:

a) Motion approved for Roger to write a letter pointing out the unacceptable flaws in the 8minutenergy questionnaire, to send to Board of Supervisors, Land use Services and Planning Commission.

b) RECE under review by Planning Commission: no action taken by MAC

Community Plan: Richard Selby scheduled to speak next month on the deficiencies of the draft Community Plan and why he will recommend the Council reject it. LVEDA discussion October 3.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUESTS/REPORTS:

Jean Magee reported James Ramos paid for the Brian Walker Highway signs

Betty Munson invited everyone to Johnson Valley Oktoberfest October 7th.

NEXT MEETING: October 19, 2017 at 5pm

ADJOURN 7:05 pm

Betty Munson, Recording

Date approved Roger Peterson, Chairman